can avail the fund for brand imaging their products abroad; and

(c) whether such 'Brand Equity Fund' will also be made available to Indian entrepreneurs to enhance their brand equity within the country, so that they can develop a muscle to complete in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) managed by a Board of Trustees has been formally launched on 18.2.1999, to project India as a reliable supplier of world class quality goods & services and to make the 'Made in India' label a symbol of quality, reliability and service to the customer. Assistance for brand promotion will be sanctioned in the form of a loan by the Board of Trustees depending upon the merits of each case. IBEF will extend support to particular brands which have achieved world class quality and performance standards and will also support domestic awareness programmes for creation of country wide awareness of the global imperative for quality and high business ethics.

Fixation of floor price for import of steel

1273. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DGFT has fixed the floor price for import of Steel which is higher than the actual international price of Steel; and

(b) what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Government has notified floor prices in respect of certain steel items to restrict their cheap imports into the country. This was necessitated due to the fact that the imports of steel at very low prices from CIS countries and some South East Asian countries in bulk quantities were causing serious threat to the indigenous steel industry by depressing prices to unremunerative levels. The floor prices were fixed on the basis of average Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) prices from sources such as Europe & Japan. The floor prices are subject to revision from time to time based upon the trend of international prices.

Foreign tea being sold as Indian tea

1274. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India produces less than nine million kgs. of tea a year;

(b) whether the world tea market registers 45 million kgs. as "Darjeeling tea";

(c) what steps have been taken to stop inferior foreign tea being palmed off as good Indian tea;

(d) whether import licences have been given for tea against commitments of export;

(e) how far these commitments have been honoured; and

(f) the net loss/gain of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The production of tea in India during 1998 was 870 m. kg including 10.73 m. kg of Darjeeling tea. Nearly 80% of tea produced in Darjeeling plantation districts is exported. Tea is exported mainly in blended form either in bulk or in packets. In this process, origin of tea is lost at the time of blending and hence export of tea by origin of production cannot be ascertained. According to the trade information a sizable quantity of tea not produced in the plantation districts of Darjeeling is sold in the international market as Darjeeling Tea.

(c) Tea Board has introduced a Tea Marketing Symbol as a certification mark for 100% Indian Tea for use on packets/ Tea Bags/Chestls etc. for the purpose of

exports. Tea Board has also introduced logos as certification marks for speciality tea produced in Darjeeling, Assam Valley and Nilgiris as per specified geographical indications. These certificate marks are registered in various foreign countries. The use of logos/tea marketing symbol is allowed based on the assessment of tea by a panel of exports. In order to prevent flow of imported tea waste into the domestic market; Govt. has modified the Tea Waste Control Order 1959 so as to make it applicable to imported tea as well.

(d) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PSUs in Himachal Pradesh

1275. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries under Public Sector in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) how many of these are earning profit and how many are running in losses, alongwith details;

(c) the efforts made by Government since 1997 to make Public Undertakings in Himachal Pradesh profitable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) As per available information till 31.3.98, there is only one public sector undertaking, namely, Nathpa Jhakri Power Corpn. Ltd. which has its registered office in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. This undertaking is still under construction.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Financial assistance released under PMRY

1276. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance released under PMRY from 1st April, 1998 to 31st December, 1998, State-wise;

(b) the basis of allocation of fund and guidelines for utilising the fund under PMRY;

(c) whether there are complaints of non-complying with the guidelines issued by Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, financial assistance is provided for subsidy, training, contingency funds etc. The funds for subsidy are authorised to the Reserve Bank of India for release to the implementing banks. The funds for training and contingency etc. are released to the States/UTs. The statement showing States/UTs-wise financial assistance released under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana from 1st April, 98 to 31st December, 98 is enclosed (*see* below).

Subsidy is released through the Reserve Bank of India for meeting the subsidy requirement of banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. The bulk of the individual project funds under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, comes as loans from banks to the beneficiary.

(b) The funds for training inclusive of stipend are @ Rs. 1,000/- per beneficiary for industry sector and @ Rs. 500/- per beneficiary for service and business sectors. The funds for contingency are released @ Rs. 250/- per case sanctioned. The funds for training are to be utilised for meeting the expenditure of trainer's fees; trainees' stipend and miscellaneous expenditure directly connected with organising the training programmes. The contingency funds are to be utilised for administering and supervising the implementation of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana at the concerned State/UT Directorate and District Industries Centre (DIC) level.